

Mr. Powell,

I'm writing to ask that the FCC not repeal regulations that prevent a media organization from owning both a newspaper and TV news station. As a professional newspaper reporter, I can tell you that much of the news that is reported on TV comes from newspapers. Newspaper reporters take a great deal of pride in not only unearthing important stories, but in providing a more thorough look at important details not provided in the kind of reports you see on TV as well as following up stories. I recall writing about a house that exploded recently. Luckily nobody was hurt. I ran into some TV reporters and saw how hurried and how sensational their focus was. My story ran the next morning in the daily newspaper. It provided more questions than answers. And in the coming weeks, I looked at the record of the contractor that was later blamed by OSHA for causing the explosion that sent three workers to the hospital. I also reported on how the company was fined for the behavior. Sure enough!

, the TV news reported on my story -- of course as usual without giving me or my organization credit. I'll bet they would have never followed up on the matter if they hadn't read it in our newspaper first. I have other examples. Take the investigation of an administrator at the University of Colorado that I have been working on since last April. Recently, I made an open records request of budget documents and an internal investigation that discovered an administrator had made several questionable purchases -- like five pieces of furniture at a cost of nearly \$40,000. Your tax dollars at work! The TV news also picked up on this story, though they never filed an open records request. My point is that without the separation of TV and print, there will be a less competitive, more consolidated market that will ultimately be driven by TV because it is able to generate more money. After nearly two years as a professional, I'm very concerned about the lack of integrity at TV organiz!

ations. I'm sure you might counter argue that newspapers would lead TV news in scenarios where TV and print journalism are merged under a single company, but I'd wager that in the long run it will be the interests of TV that will win out. That would mean less local news -- not more.